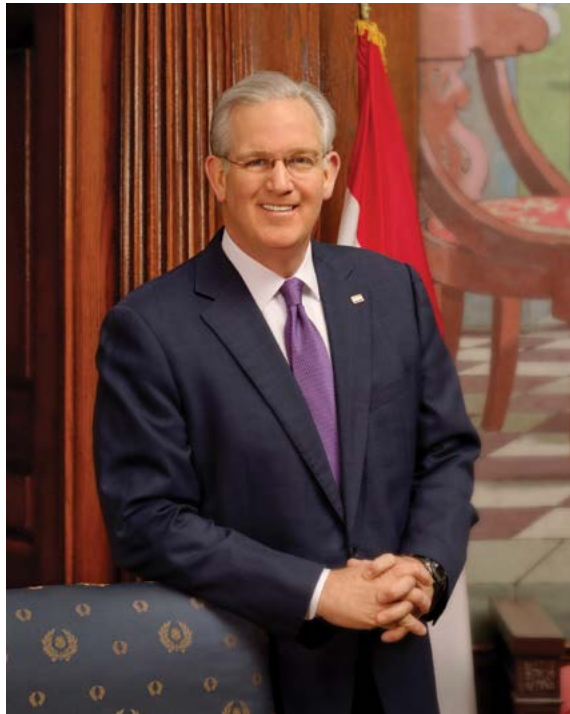


Building a Stronger Missouri

Governor Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon | 2009-2017





Dear friends,

As I prepare to leave office after thirty years in public service, I wanted you to know how grateful I am for the opportunity to have served the people of Missouri: the toughest, hardest working and most generous men and women on God's green earth.

Together, we've made great strides: recovering from the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression, helping communities rebuild after natural disasters, and making transformative investments to strengthen our public schools, hold down college tuition, improve our state parks and help Missourians with mental illness and developmental disabilities live with dignity and hope.

Today, our unemployment rate has been cut in half, our spotless AAA credit rating is intact and Missouri leads all our neighboring states in job creation over the past year. Our public universities lead the country in holding down tuition increases, and our high school graduation rate is in the top 10 in the nation. A new state-of-the-art mental hospital is being built in Fulton and the in-home waiting list for low-income Missourians with developmental disabilities no longer exists.

None of these achievements would have been possible without the strength and perseverance of Missourians in every corner of our state. Through good times and bad, the people of Missouri have continued to lead the way and inspire the world with their grit, tenacity and compassion. Serving as your governor has been a tremendous honor, and I will never forget the lessons I've learned from the people I've had the privilege to serve. You've taught me about the enduring power of hope, the resilience of the human spirit, and how much people can accomplish when they put aside their differences and work together.

That is why I am more optimistic than ever about the future of our state. January 9 will mark my last day in office, but you have my commitment that I will never stop fighting for the people of this state or the values they share.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon".

Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon

Contents

- 07** Introduction
- 11** Smart Fiscal Management
- 17** Growing the Economy
- 29** Increasing Educational Opportunity
- 39** Healthy Families
- 49** Disaster Response
- 59** Outdoors & Tourism
- 65** Safer, Stronger, More Equitable Communities
- 73** Supporting Farm Families & Rural Communities
- 81** Veterans and Military Families
- 84** First Lady Georganne Nixon
- 87** Awards and Recognition

Governor Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon, 2009 - 2017

Building a Stronger Missouri

Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon was born February 13, 1956, in the small town of De Soto, Missouri. He and his two sisters were raised in a family of public servants: their father, Jeremiah W. (Jerry) Nixon, was a lawyer, the Mayor of De Soto and a local judge; his mother, Betty Lea Nixon, was a teacher and president of the local school board.

His family instilled in him bedrock values that guided his 30-year career in public office: hard work, optimism, duty to God and country, and helping all those in need. An Eagle Scout and avid outdoorsman, Governor Nixon was a passionate advocate for protecting and preserving Missouri's natural heritage for future generations to enjoy.

After earning his undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Missouri-Columbia, Nixon returned to De Soto to practice law. A Democrat, he represented the people of Jefferson County from 1986 to 1992 in the Missouri State Senate, where he was instrumental in passing legislation to improve prenatal care for expectant mothers.

In 1992, Nixon was elected Attorney General of Missouri and went on to serve an unprecedented four consecutive terms as the state's chief legal officer. Inheriting an office tainted by scandal, Nixon restored its integrity by cleaning up corruption, cracking down on crime, and protecting consumers and the environment. Under Nixon's leadership, the Attorney General's Office became one of the most efficient and effective in state government.

As Attorney General, Nixon earned a reputation for taking on – and winning – tough fights. He argued before the United States Supreme Court in *Nixon v. Shrink*, a landmark victory that reinstated Missouri's campaign contribution limits and cleared the way nationally for campaign finance reform. One of his most successful initiatives, Missouri's popular No-Call List, became a model for states across the nation to protect consumers from unwanted telemarketing calls.

Nixon's lawsuit against Big Tobacco, relating to health hazards from smoking, resulted in settlements worth billions of dollars to Missouri taxpayers. Those settlements led to the creation of two of the largest health care foundations in state history, including the Missouri Foundation for Health.

Attorney General Nixon took action to make sure that lead mining companies were held accountable for the pollution they caused, and cleaned up the areas they damaged after closing down operations in Missouri. As a result of a settlement reached with ASARCO, millions of dollars are now being invested in projects to restore and improve public and private lands and water quality in southern Missouri.

In 2008, Nixon was elected the 55th governor of Missouri with the highest margin of victory for a non-incumbent governor in 44 years. In 2012, he was reelected, making him one of only three governors in Missouri history to serve two full consecutive terms in office.

Governor Nixon earned a national reputation as a fiscal conservative fighting for Missouri's working families and stronger, safer communities. As governor, he took unprecedented action to end discrimination based on race, gender, sexual orientation and ethnic origin; protect the civil rights of women, minorities and individuals with disabilities; and promote equal opportunity for all.

Taking office during the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression, Governor Nixon acted quickly and decisively to cut the size of state government and balance the budget without raising taxes. His commitment to fiscal discipline protected Missouri's AAA credit rating, while allowing smart investments in public education, children's health, mental health and public safety.

With unemployment close to 10 percent when he took office, Governor Nixon made jobs a top priority to help hard-hit families across the state get back to work. His proactive leadership is widely credited for reviving Missouri's auto manufacturing industry, creating thousands of new jobs and making the state a national leader in producing next-generation automotive parts and quality vehicles.

Known as a consensus-builder, the Governor convened a broad coalition of state leaders in the public and private sector to chart a path to a sustainable 21st Century economy. Building on that strategic blueprint, Missouri led the nation in new business creation, strengthening its reputation as an emerging hub for high-tech jobs, entrepreneurship and innovation.

To prepare young Missourians to compete for the best jobs in a global economy, Governor Nixon made public education and college affordability top priorities. Working across the aisle, he secured record funding for Missouri's public elementary and secondary schools, with a heightened focus on science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

To bring the dream of a college education within reach for more Missouri families, Governor Nixon expanded the A+ scholarship program statewide and secured four tuition freezes. As a result, while other states were hiking college tuition by double digits, Missouri led the nation in holding down tuition increases at public universities during his tenure.

Governor Nixon achieved his goal to expand Missouri's outdoor economy and boost state park attendance to record levels, reversing a 10-year decline. Thousands of Missouri families, including his own, took part in the Governor's 100 Missouri Miles Challenge, hiking, biking, and paddling in Missouri's state parks – voted best in the

nation for camping and hiking. As a state senator, Nixon was instrumental in the creation of the Katy Trail, the longest rails-to-trails project in the nation, and as Governor, he extended the trail across the entire width of the state from St. Louis to the Kansas City region.

Because Governor Nixon believes all Missourians deserve the opportunity to live up to their God-given potential, he pushed Missouri to prominence as a national leader in the early identification and treatment of autism and mental illness. During his two terms as Governor, the state made historic investments in helping thousands of Missourians with developmental disabilities lead healthier, safer and more productive lives.

The Partnership for Hope, the first initiative of its kind in the nation, helps thousands of Missourians with developmental disabilities get the support services they need to live more independently. And thanks to Governor Nixon's efforts, low-income Missourians with developmental disabilities and their families no longer must wait months or years for in-home services.

Throughout the state, community mental health liaisons are working with law enforcement and the courts to connect people in behavioral health crises to treatment. In 2015, the Governor broke ground on a new state-of-the-art mental hospital in Fulton, replacing a dangerous, deteriorating facility dating back to 1851.

Governor Nixon created the Faith-Based and Community Service Partnership for Disaster Recovery to augment state and federal response to frequent storms and flooding. His compassionate and effective leadership in the aftermath of the deadly EF-5 tornado that struck Joplin in 2011 serves as a national model for disaster response.

Governor Nixon and his wife, Georganne Wheeler Nixon, have two sons, Jeremiah W. and Willson.



Smart Fiscal Management

Fiscal discipline is a value Missourians share, and a foundational principle of Governor Nixon’s administration.

On the heels of the worst downturn since the Great Depression, Governor Nixon took decisive action to curb government spending, rebuild the economy and create a strong foundation for future growth.


Throughout his tenure Governor Nixon maintained strict fiscal discipline – balancing the budget every year without raising taxes. Instead of making government bigger, Governor Nixon made it smarter and more efficient. While in office, the Governor cut energy use, eliminated more than 5,000 government positions and sold off surplus state property – saving taxpayers millions.

The Governor’s administration also used technology to better serve taxpayers by making hundreds of government services accessible online.

Governor Nixon’s leadership protected Missouri’s AAA credit rating from all three rating agencies, making Missouri one of only a few “Triple Triple” rated states in the nation. Missouri also had less debt when Governor Nixon left office than when he came in.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

reduced state
spending by
\$2.3
billion

 reduced state
workforce size
by **5,095**
positions

AAA
— rating —  reaffirmed
26 times

Financial Leadership

When Governor Nixon took office in 2009, Missouri faced a \$778 million budget shortfall and a struggling economy. While some states responded to the financial crisis by raising taxes or making draconian cuts to vital services, Governor Nixon took a different approach. By cutting wasteful spending, eliminating unnecessary positions, and consolidating state services, Governor Nixon was able to balance the budget every year while making smart investments in priorities like public education and economic development. Because of his steady leadership during challenging economic times, Missouri remains one of the few states with a perfect AAA credit rating from all three major rating agencies.

Making State Government More Efficient

Governor Nixon's administration made state government smaller, smarter and more efficient. Governor Nixon reduced the size of the state workforce by more than 5,000 positions, making it the smallest in over 20 years. In addition, the Governor's Office of Administration sold unused state property generating \$13.3 million; consolidated 375,000 square feet of unused office space saving more than \$4.5 million annually; reduced state employee travel saving \$15.6 million; and cut the state vehicle fleet by more than 900 vehicles.

While other states faced billions of dollars in pension deficits, Governor Nixon bucked this trend by reforming and modernizing the state pension system to keep it solvent for years to come. Bipartisan legislation he signed in 2010 will save taxpayers \$660 million over 10 years.

To help protect taxpayers and the environment, when Governor Nixon took office he directed state agencies to reduce their energy use by two percent a year. By 2016, energy consumption was down more than 27 percent from 2008, an annual reduction of nearly four percent, saving taxpayers \$44 million.

Fiscal Excellence

Prudent fiscal management helped preserve Missouri's AAA credit rating from all three major rating agencies. While many states' credit were downgraded as a result of fiscally irresponsible policies, Governor Nixon made the tough decisions necessary to keep the budget in balance and Missouri's credit rating intact. This spotless rating gives businesses added confidence to make long-term, job-creating investments and allows school districts and local governments to upgrade, renovate and build new facilities, financed by low-interest bonds. During the Governor's tenure the State of Missouri saved more than \$141.8 million through the refinancing of \$1 billion in bonds.

Infrastructure Investments

Governor Nixon supported efforts to reduce overhead and administrative costs at the Missouri Department of Transportation, freeing up more than \$605 million that was reinvested into roads and bridges across the state.

With the state economy back on course, in 2015 Governor Nixon worked with bipartisan leaders in the legislature to tackle a backlog of long-deferred and badly needed improvements to hundreds of vital taxpayer-owned assets around the state.

The resulting "Build Missouri" initiative helped modernize outdated science labs and classrooms on college campuses; renovate veterans homes; restore bridges and cabins in state parks; and repair Missouri's most popular and iconic historic landmark: the 100-year old State Capitol. In all, more than 500 projects statewide were improved by this fiscally sound initiative, financed through low-interest bonds and other sources. Because Governor Nixon worked to pay down \$360 million in existing state debt, Missouri was able to make these important investments and still hold state bonding debt to below 2009 levels.

E-Government

As consumers turned increasingly to smart phones, computers and other personal technology to get important information and transact business, state government adapted, taking dramatic strides forward to meet the demand for online services while safeguarding taxpayers' sensitive information. Governor Nixon's administration used technology to make state government more efficient, transparent and user-friendly, putting scores of state services online – from business licenses to child support, camping reservations to gun permits – and revamping outdated computer systems.

To safeguard Missouri's computer networks from cyber threats and protect sensitive data, Governor Nixon convened a Cybersecurity Task Force and the first-ever State of Missouri Cybersecurity Summit, bringing together representatives from local governments, law enforcement, private businesses, public schools and universities to work on a unified effort to combat cyber-attacks.

By the end of 2016, more than 800 state services were available to taxpayers online and Missouri was a nationally-recognized leader in both cybersecurity and e-government. In addition to being one of just five states in the nation to receive an A grade from the Center for Digital Government, Missouri was honored with the "Innovation of the Year" award from StateScoop for its cybersecurity portal and the "Overall Excellence in Cyber Security Award" at the 2015 FireEye Defense Summit in Washington, D.C.

Fiscally Responsible Tax Relief

Governor Nixon cut taxes in targeted, fiscally responsible ways that helped businesses grow and create jobs. He worked across the aisle to phase out the redundant franchise tax on thousands of small businesses and eliminate the tax on retirement income for military families.

Governor Nixon also worked with educators, business leaders and local officials to block unaffordable tax breaks that would have disproportionately benefitted special interests and big corporations. By sustaining his vetoes of House Bill 253 in 2013 and another set of irresponsible special interest tax breaks in 2014, Governor Nixon was able to keep the budget in balance and prevent millions of dollars in cuts to public schools, higher education and other key priorities.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

eliminated
75 boards & commissions
970 appointed positions

consolidated and refinanced
existing state debt,
saving taxpayers
\$141.8
million

Tax Credit Reform

Governor Nixon was also committed to making sure the state's tax credit programs operated efficiently and effectively to strengthen communities and create jobs. In 2010, Governor Nixon appointed a bipartisan Tax Credit Review Commission to review the state's tax credit programs and make recommendations for greater efficiency and better return on investment.

Governor Nixon worked in a bipartisan way to pass the most sweeping reforms to Tax Increment Financing (TIF) in more than a decade, reining in abuses in the St. Louis area, making it more difficult for developers to finance projects that would not benefit the region as a whole.

In 2013, Missouri was recognized by the Pew-MacArthur Results First Initiative as one of the 10 states leading the nation in improving results for taxpayers by using cost-benefit analyses to drive policy decisions.



Gov. Jay Nixon at the 2014 State of the State

Ethical and Accountable Government

Ethics reform

Throughout his career in public service, Governor Nixon worked to make state government more ethical and accountable to the people. He put forward a comprehensive package of ethics and campaign finance reforms and repeatedly urged the General Assembly to take action. In 2016 the General Assembly answered his call and passed a number of long-overdue ethics reforms including slowing the revolving door between legislating and lobbying, reining in the campaign accounts of former officeholders, and preventing legislators from paying each other for political advice.

License Office Reform

Before Governor Nixon took office, Missouri's motor vehicle license offices were awarded through political patronage – handed out to political allies and donors without respect to the quality of services they provided for Missourians. That ended in 2009, when Governor Nixon delivered on his pledge to eliminate political patronage. License office contracts are now awarded through a competitive and open bidding process, which ensures Missouri taxpayers receive the most efficient and effective service. Since implementation of the new process, more than \$8.6 million has been returned to the state by license offices for reinvestment in priorities like schools and public safety.



Growing the Economy

As a young man, Governor Jay Nixon worked as a union laborer on construction sites in his hometown of De Soto. He never forgot the lessons he learned about the dignity of a hard day's work and the pride of building things to last. When he took office during the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression, Governor Nixon's top priority was growing the economy and getting folks back to work.

Even before the Great Recession, globalization and advances in technology had caused fundamental changes to the nation's economy. Industries like heavy manufacturing had sustained major losses from overseas competition, and some speculated that those jobs might be gone for good. That is why from Day One, Governor Nixon was committed to transforming Missouri's economy for the 21st century and making sure Missouri workers could compete and win in a high-tech global marketplace.

Governor Nixon's steady leadership during tough economic times and bold vision for the future set Missouri on a course of shared prosperity and sustained growth. Personal income and GDP rose. Missouri's unemployment rate, which spiked to nearly 10 percent in 2009, was cut in half. And the Show-Me State became an internationally recognized hub of innovation, high-tech manufacturing and entrepreneurship.

Governor Nixon's leadership is widely credited for revitalizing Missouri's automotive manufacturing industry, paving the way for major expansions at Ford's Kansas City Assembly Plant in Claycomo, General Motors' facility in Wentzville, and automotive parts suppliers in every corner of the state. As a result, automotive manufacturers and suppliers have invested more than \$2 billion in Missouri and created thousands of jobs, and employment at Missouri's Ford and GM plants has more than doubled.

A lifelong outdoorsman, Governor Nixon launched signature initiatives that boosted Missouri's outdoor economy, increased tourism spending and pushed state park attendance to record highs.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

cut the state's
unemployment
rate **by half**

Job Creation

By balancing the budget, holding the line on taxes and making targeted investments in education and workforce training, Governor Nixon fostered a competitive climate for businesses of all sizes to expand and invest.

Building on this foundation, Governor Nixon worked proactively to bring new jobs to the state, meeting with business leaders in the U.S. and around the globe to promote Missouri's skilled workforce and strong business climate. From high-tech companies like Cerner and Square to advanced manufacturers such as Ford and Boeing, Governor Nixon's efforts helped create and preserve thousands of jobs for Missouri families.

Under Governor Nixon's leadership, Boeing brought commercial aircraft production to St. Louis for the first time in its history, creating approximately 700 jobs. Ford's Kansas City Assembly plant – at risk of closing when he took office, rebounded to produce more vehicles than any other Ford plant in the world. And Missouri led the nation in new business creation, becoming an internationally recognized hub for high-tech jobs and innovation.

In 2009, Missouri's unemployment rate spiked to nearly 10 percent. By November 2016, the state's unemployment rate was down to 4.7 percent.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Led the nation in new
business formations



Received
an "A"
for corporate tax index

Top 10
Pro-Business State
six years in a row

6th best
in the nation for
annual advanced
manufacturing
industry job growth



Governor Nixon visits workers building CertainTeed's \$100 million production center in Jonesburg



U.S. Farathane would open its first Missouri production facility in Riverside

Strategic Initiative for Economic Growth & Missouri Works

During his first term, Governor Nixon worked with hundreds of business, labor, and education leaders in every corner of the state to develop a growth plan for Missouri.

Unveiled in 2010, the Strategic Initiative provided a roadmap for transforming Missouri's economy for the 21st century, identifying seven targeted industries poised to create jobs and eight strategic objectives to drive economic growth.

Over the ensuing five years, following that blueprint for growth, Governor Nixon implemented Missouri Works, a multi-pronged economic development agenda including: a best-in-class foreign trade initiative; increased funding for workforce training; millions of dollars to foster entrepreneurship via the Missouri Technology Corporation; and more streamlined economic development programs.

Workforce of the Future

Governor Nixon has always believed that Missouri's most valuable asset is its people – folks who get up early, stay late and get the job done. That is why from Day One, he made sure Missouri workers had the skills they needed to compete for the best jobs in the global economy.

During his first term, Governor Nixon doubled the state's investment in workforce training, while keeping the budget in balance and holding the line on taxes.

In total, under Governor Nixon's leadership, Missouri provided nearly \$98 million in training funds to hundreds of businesses to train nearly 300,000 workers and create more than 10,000 new jobs in next-generation industries such as information technology and advanced manufacturing.

In 2012, Missouri was selected as one of the first four states to participate in the Certified Work Ready Communities initiative by American College Testing (ACT). The initiative aligns workforce-training programs with the economic development needs of communities; matches appropriate applicants to jobs based on skill level; and strengthens businesses by strengthening the workforce. Jasper County became the first community in the nation to earn this distinction, and at the conclusion of Governor Nixon's tenure Missouri had 81 counties actively participating in the Certified Work Ready Community initiative and 36-fully certified counties.

Governor Nixon also fought for the rights of workers to bargain for fair wages and benefits. When the General Assembly passed a bill that would have weakened workers' rights and reduced wages by making Missouri a "Right to Work" state, Governor Nixon fought back – building a bipartisan coalition of workers, educators and first responders to sustain his veto of this damaging legislation. A year later, the Governor also successfully defeated a "Paycheck Deception" bill that would have made it harder for public employees like teachers and mental health workers to exercise their constitutional right to organize.



Gov. Nixon visits workers building the Stan Musial Memorial Bridge across the Mississippi River on July 27, 2013

Advanced Manufacturing: Revitalizing the Auto and Aerospace Industries

Missouri has built cars and trucks for generations. But when Governor Nixon first took office, the national recession had dealt a crippling blow to the state's once-thriving auto sector. In the four years before his election, state automotive manufacturing employment had declined by 35 percent. Governor Nixon was determined to bring this industry back from the brink and attract new next-generation automotive manufacturing to Missouri.

On his very first day in office, Governor Nixon created the Missouri Automotive Jobs Task Force; it was his first official act as Governor. Based on its recommendations, he worked across the aisle to increase funding for workforce training, and travelled to Detroit to make the case to leaders at Ford, General Motors and the UAW that Missouri was ready and able to lead the resurgence of the American auto industry.

These efforts culminated in 2010, when Governor Nixon brought Democrats and Republicans together pass the Missouri Manufacturing Jobs Act, a strategic,



Gov. Nixon vetoes anti-worker legislation at Sheet Metal Workers' Local 36 training facility in St. Louis

fiscally responsible bill designed to bring next-generation automotive production lines to Missouri. When legislators failed to pass the bill during the regular session, Governor Nixon called them back into a special session – and led intense negotiations with lawmakers to get the bill across the finish line. And to ensure these strategic incentives were fully paid for, the Governor also worked with the General Assembly to pass sweeping reforms to the state’s pension system, saving taxpayers \$660 million over 10 years.

The results were dramatic. Fifteen months after the Governor signed this landmark legislation, Ford confirmed it would make a \$1.1 billion investment in its Kansas City Assembly Plant to build a brand new stamping facility, add another shift of F-150 production and build the Transit van in the United States for the first time. Two months after that, General Motors announced a \$380 million investment and 1,660 new jobs in Wentzville to produce the all-new Chevy Colorado and GMC Canyon pickup trucks. These historic investments had a ripple effect across the state as automotive suppliers expanded to support this burgeoning industry.

From 2010 to 2016, Missouri regained its position as a hub of next-generation auto industry jobs: employment at Ford and General Motors more than doubled and the Kansas City Assembly Plant became the world’s largest Ford plant in terms of production. At least 64 auto companies added or announced plans to add 4,812 new jobs and make over \$745 million in direct capital investments in Missouri.

For his work to make the motor vehicle industry and job creation a priority during his eight years in office, Governor Nixon in 2016 received the Motor & Equipment Manufacturers Association’s State Leadership award.

Governor Nixon was also responsible for the bi-partisan effort to secure next-generation aerospace manufacturing that led Boeing to bring commercial aircraft production to St. Louis for the first time, positioning St. Louis to compete for new commercial and defense work.

In 2016, Governor Nixon joined members of Missouri’s Congressional delegation, local officials, and Boeing executives and employees to celebrate the opening of the company’s \$300 million facility housing high-tech composite parts manufacturing for the 777X, Boeing’s newest commercial jetliner.



Gov. Jay Nixon breaks ground on Boeing’s new composite center in St. Louis on December 16, 2014

Innovation and Entrepreneurship

Small businesses are the engines of Missouri’s economy, and Governor Nixon made support for startups and entrepreneurs a top priority of his administration. Working in partnership with Missouri’s world-renowned research institutions and business community, Governor Nixon helped make Missouri an international hub of entrepreneurship and innovation.

In 2009, Governor Nixon reached across the aisle to pass targeted tax relief for 16,500 small businesses by eliminating the franchise tax on companies with less than \$10 million in assets. This allowed small business owners to keep a total of approximately \$14.5 million they otherwise would have paid to the state.

Governor Nixon worked with the General Assembly to put more dollars into local business incubators and dramatically increased funding for the Missouri Technology Corporation (MTC), a public-private partnership that fosters the growth of new and emerging high-tech companies. Under Governor Nixon’s leadership, funding for MTC increased by 900 percent – helping high-tech startups and small businesses leverage more than \$350 million in private capital to commercialize their products and services and create new jobs.

By the end of the Governor’s tenure, MTC was the number one venture capital investor in the Midwest and data from the U.S. Census showed Missouri leading the nation in new business creation, per capita.

In addition to small businesses and startups, Governor Nixon oversaw major expansions by global technology giants:

- In the largest economic development project in state history, Cerner invested more than \$4.4 billion to revitalize the site of the former Bannister Mall in Kansas City and create 16,000 new jobs.
- Square opened a permanent office in St. Louis' Cortex Innovation Community and announced plans to create 200 jobs.
- Governor Nixon also worked with state, local and federal officials to keep the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency in St. Louis and facilitate construction of its new state-of-the-art headquarters.

By leveraging these high-tech investments to transform distressed areas into thriving neighborhoods, Governor Nixon helped revitalize urban areas across the state.



Gov. Nixon signs the Missouri Manufacturing Jobs Act at UAW Local 249 in Claycomo on July 15, 2010



Gov. Nixon signed Missouri's first trade agreement with the province of Alberta on August 18, 2015 to expand exports to Canada



Gov. Nixon visits workers constructing the Flanagan South pipeline across Missouri on March 25, 2014

Export Missouri

Selling more Missouri-made goods abroad creates more jobs at home, which is why Governor Nixon made it a top priority to expand Missouri exports. In 2015, Missouri exported more than \$13.6 billion in products around the globe, an increase of 43 percent over 2009. Under Governor Nixon's leadership, Missouri was recognized by the U.S. Small Business Administration as a top trade and export promotion state.

Based on the recommendations of his Strategic Initiative for Economic Growth, Governor Nixon created a best-in-class trade initiative, Export Missouri, which included opening additional international offices and helping more small- and medium-sized businesses become exporters by establishing a "one-stop-shop" for companies seeking to establish or increase their export business.

During his administration, Governor Nixon led 14 trade missions across the globe, including missions to China, Brazil, Taiwan, the United Kingdom, France, the Republic of Korea, Canada, Cuba, Spain, Italy, Germany, Panama, Peru, Israel and the United Arab Emirates, securing agreements to sell billions of dollars worth of Missouri goods.

Clean, Abundant, Affordable Energy

Throughout his tenure, Governor Nixon remained committed to ensuring families had access to reliable and affordable energy, while putting Missouri at the forefront of innovating new clean energy technologies and creating high-paying clean energy jobs.

In 2009, Governor Nixon signed the Energy Efficiency Investment Act to give investor-owned utilities an incentive to implement energy efficiency programs, which protect the environment and hold down costs for consumers.

In 2013, the Governor realigned the Division of Energy from the Department of Natural Resources to the Department of Economic Development to drive economic growth, provide for a healthier environment, and achieve greater energy security for future generations.

In 2014, the Governor named a steering committee of more than 50 business, labor, education and energy leaders to develop a Comprehensive State Energy Plan. Missouri officials released the Comprehensive State Energy Plan in 2015, emphasizing the need for abundant, clean and affordable energy. The overarching goal of the plan is to chart a course toward a sustainable and prosperous energy future that will create jobs and improve Missourians' quality of life.

Governor Nixon also supported fuels from the farm by promoting the installation of blended fuel pumps and advocating for a strong Renewable Fuel Standard. In 2016, Governor Nixon served as the chairman of the national Governors' Biofuels Coalition. The 21-state bipartisan organization was founded more than 20 years ago to increase the use of ethanol based fuels, decrease the nation's dependence on imported energy resources, improve the environment and stimulate the national economy.

During the Governor's tenure, Missouri ranked 10th nationally in ethanol capacity, with a total of six majority farmer-owned ethanol plants that produce approximately 300 million gallons of ethanol each year. In 2011, according to a report by the Commercial Agriculture Program at the University of Missouri, the state's ethanol industry generated \$1.1 billion in economic output and sustained 1,575 jobs.

Governor Nixon also worked with Enbridge U.S. to construct a \$2.8 billion pipeline across 11 Missouri counties – creating jobs, strengthening local economies, and making North America more energy-independent.



Gov. Nixon and Jim McKelvey, co-founder of Square, during opening ceremonies of their new office in St. Louis on March 15, 2016

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**Top 10
state**
for **startup funding**
for the first
time ever



**Silver Shovel
Award winner**
from Area Development
Magazine for Economic
Development Project
of the Year

employment at
Ford and GM plants
more than **doubled**



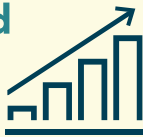
Increasing Educational Opportunity

A proud product of Missouri public schools and the son of a teacher, Governor Nixon believes education is the best economic development tool there is, and the key to giving Missouri’s children the opportunity and the tools to achieve their dreams.

From expanding access to early childhood education, to increasing high school graduation rates and making college more affordable, Governor Nixon was a tireless advocate for expanding educational opportunities at every level. Even during tough economic times, Governor Nixon balanced the budget while providing record funding for K-12 classrooms and higher education institutions, resulting in improved test scores, higher graduation rates and increased college enrollment.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Funding through the
Foundation Formula
increased by nearly
\$400 million

Record funding
for K-12 and
higher
education 

Expanded
access to 
**early childhood
education**

High school
graduation rate 
Top 10
in the nation



Gov. Nixon at Carrollton Head Start



Gov. Nixon visits with students participating in Project Lead the Way at Marion Elementary School in St. Louis County

Early Childhood Education

Governor Nixon made quality early childhood education a centerpiece of his education agenda, recognizing that children who start kindergarten ready to learn are more likely to succeed in school and find high-paying jobs later in life. As the first official business of his second term, Governor Nixon met with early childhood education experts, educators and advocates about the importance of improving and expanding access to quality learning opportunities, and to develop a plan to direct additional funding for early childhood education.

In addition to increased funding through the Missouri Preschool Program, in 2014 the Governor launched Missouri Start Smart to support the development, expansion and improvement of high-quality early childhood and pre-kindergarten programs throughout the state. To date, \$23.1 million in Missouri Start Smart grants has been awarded for 24 projects across the state, which will serve up to 2,325 pre-school age children.

The Fiscal Year 2017 budget signed by Governor Nixon included his recommendation to fund early childhood education through Missouri's school foundation formula, which will provide more than 2,000 children with access to high-quality pre-school.

Throughout his administration, Governor Nixon supported increased funding for other early childhood programs including Missouri Head Start, Missouri Early Head Start, and Missouri First Steps. Through the Missouri Early Childhood Special Education program, more than 11,000 children with disabilities receive services tailored for their specific needs every year. In 2016, the Governor signed legislation allowing Missouri to establish a Quality Rating System for early childhood education providers serving children from birth to kindergarten. Without this legislation, Missouri had been the only state in the nation that prohibited the establishment of a Quality Rating System for early learning providers.

Improving and Investing in K-12 Classrooms

Governor Nixon believes that where public schools thrive, communities thrive, and all Missouri students should have the opportunity to get an education that prepares them for good jobs. In today's global economy, Missouri's K-12 schools must be high-tech, rigorous institutions of innovation.



Gov. Nixon visits with students at Ferguson Middle School on May 4, 2016

From 2009 to 2016, Governor Nixon increased funding through the K-12 Foundation Formula by nearly \$400 million. With that higher funding, Governor Nixon demanded accountability and measureable results: higher test scores, higher graduation rates and tougher classes. With record funding for elementary and secondary education during Governor Nixon's administration, learning standards became more rigorous and math and reading scores improved. The high school graduation rate from Missouri's public high schools increased from 78.6 percent in 2011 to 87.8 percent in 2016 – ranking among the top 10 in the nation.

To prepare students for the high-tech jobs of the future, Governor Nixon encouraged school districts to adopt innovative programs like Project Lead the Way, a project-based program that provides hands-on learning experiences for students in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM). Through Project Lead the Way, Missouri offers 633 programs to 409 participating schools, ranking

10th in the country in number of programs. Missouri's rate of growth in the program ranks behind only California and Texas. Missouri leads the country in Project Lead the Way computer science programs and is second behind California in new elementary school programs.

In 2015, Governor Nixon led the creation of a partnership among St. Louis-area superintendents to help struggling schools implement their reaccreditation plans. In 2016, no Missouri school district scored in the unaccredited range.

During his administration, Governor Nixon helped at-risk students stay in school and succeed in postsecondary education and the workforce by more than tripling the number of high schools offering the Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) program.

In addition to Governor Nixon's support of increasing funding for the Foundation Formula, his administration has also supported increased funding for broadband capacity for schools to enhance their online technology capabilities, advanced placement exams and dual credit courses for high school students, improvements for teacher placement in urban school districts so quality teachers are available in every Missouri school, and the expansion of community partnerships with high schools and community colleges through the Innovation High School Initiative.


A fierce defender of the principle that public funds belong in public schools, Governor Nixon successfully blocked private school voucher schemes that would have drained funding from local public school districts. Governor Nixon also demonstrated his commitment to public education by assembling a coalition of teachers, administrators, board members and parents to successfully sustain his veto of House Bill 253 – a budget-busting tax break that would have hurt public education without helping Missouri families.

As a result of these efforts, Missouri's public schools showed continued improvement during the Governor's tenure. The 2016 Annual Performance Report (APR) released by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education showed that none of Missouri's 518 school districts received an APR score in the unaccredited range, even as the learning standards became more rigorous and comprehensive.

Higher Education

Governor Nixon's agenda for higher education was based on one primary goal: give every Missouri student the opportunity to get a quality higher education at an affordable cost. Before Governor Nixon took office, the cost of college was skyrocketing, squeezing working families and leaving students with mountains of unsustainable debt. Governor Nixon tackled these challenges head-on, providing record funding for colleges and universities and leading pioneering initiatives to hold down costs, improve quality, and make Missouri a national leader in college affordability and innovation.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

more than
50,000 students earned
a degree in 2015  up
36%
from 2008



**Increased enrollment
at colleges and
universities**

**increased
investments**



in areas of Science,
Technology, Engineering
and Math

Access and Affordability

While other states were seeing double digit tuition increases, Governor Nixon worked with Missouri colleges and universities to hold down tuition – securing four tuition freezes during his tenure. Under his leadership, Missouri led the nation in holding down tuition increases at Missouri's public universities. As a result, college enrollment surged. In 2015, more than 50,000 students earned a four-year degree, up 36 percent since he took office.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

number
1 in the nation
for holding down tuition increases
at four-year public higher education institutions

Case Study: Expanding the A+ Scholarship Program

One of the most important and impactful steps Governor Nixon took to make college more accessible was to expand Missouri's A+ Scholarship Program to nearly every public high school in the state. Over the past 20 years, Missouri's A+ Scholarship Program has helped to provide two tuition-free years of study for eligible students at Missouri community colleges. Governor Nixon believed that A+ scholarships should be open to all students, not just those fortunate enough to attend an A+ designated school.

And while the General Assembly failed to pass the legislation he had proposed to expand A+ statutorily, Governor Nixon persevered. Working directly with local educators, administrators and the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Governor Nixon streamlined the certification process and encouraged more high schools to earn the A+ designation. By 2016, nearly every public high school had joined the A+ Schools Program – meaning nearly every high school student in the state could earn an A+ scholarship. In 2016, Governor Nixon signed legislation that made A+ scholarships available to students at non-public schools that meet eligibility requirements.

Governor Nixon also increased access to Missouri's Bright Flight and Access Missouri scholarship programs. Access Missouri provides assistance to low- and middle-income students attending a Missouri two- or four-year institution and enables nearly 50,000 students to afford tuition at higher education institutions. In 2008, roughly 38,700 students received Access Missouri scholarships; in 2016, approximately 48,300 students received these benefits – an increase of 25 percent.

Building Affordability

In 2015, the Governor worked across the aisle to pass the most significant state bonding investment in higher education in more than two decades. The fiscally responsible bonding package included \$200 million for capital improvements at two- and four-year institutions. Funding for "Building Affordability" addressed critical maintenance and repair needs at every public university and community college, helping to maintain Missouri's status as a national leader in holding down tuition increases and giving students access to state-of-the-art equipment and facilities

Among the most important projects funded by Building Affordability was a \$16 million renovation and expansion of Reynolds Hall at Missouri Southern State University, including new laboratories with state-of-the-art equipment and expanded academic space. In 2016, MSSU honored the Governor by naming a portion of the new facility Nixon Hall.

"Holding down tuition has been a signature achievement of Nixon's administration."

Kansas City Star, September 27, 2015



Gov. Nixon breaks ground on Nixon Hall at Missouri Southern State University on November 29, 2016

Innovation and Excellence

In 2010, Governor Nixon hosted a Higher Education Summit to present an agenda for bold changes and significant improvements at Missouri's public higher education institutions. Over the next six years, Governor Nixon worked with higher education leaders across the state to implement this vision and make Missouri a nationally-recognized leader in higher education innovation and excellence.

Under the Governor's direction, the Department of Higher Education and the state's public institutions conducted a review of all existing academic programs in order to identify and eliminate non-productive programs. Many programs were re-configured as a result of this initiative, resulting in more productivity and cost savings, and 118 unproductive and duplicative degree programs were voluntarily eliminated.

Governor Nixon also worked to expand access to accelerated, high-impact programs like the Innovation Campus. By bringing K-12 school districts, local businesses and higher education institutions together, Innovation Campuses shorten the time it takes to earn a baccalaureate degree, reduce student debt and give students the practical education they need to step into high-paying jobs.

Delivering better results for students and taxpayers, Governor Nixon also successfully implemented performance-based funding for higher education based on institutions' outcomes. The new, more rigorous funding model developed in collaboration with the state's public two- and four-year institutions allocates funding based on specific measures of student success, degree completion, professional certification, financial responsibility and efficiency, and is now enshrined in state law.

In 2013, Governor Nixon worked with Western Governors University (WGU), an accredited, non-profit online university founded in 1997, to create WGU-Missouri. WGU is an affordable, flexible option for adult workers which expands access to higher education for working Missourians through online, competency-based degree programs in teaching, business, information technology, health professions and other fields.



Gov. Nixon tours the Structures Lab at Missouri S&T on July 2, 2009



On Aug. 1, 2012 Gov. Nixon announced nearly \$9 million in grants to establish Innovation Campuses throughout Missouri



Gov. Nixon visited Pattonville High School in St. Louis County on April 22, 2013 to congratulate the school on being selected as an Innovation High School

Preparing Students for High-Demand Fields

Governor Nixon recognized early in his administration that for Missouri to position itself as an economic and technological leader in the global marketplace of the 21st century, it was critical to encourage more students to pursue careers in high-demand fields.

Through targeted, strategic initiatives like Caring for Missourians, MoHealthWINS and MoManufacturingWINS, Governor Nixon leveraged more than \$100 million to help meet the ongoing need for skilled professionals in high-paying, fast-growing fields. Those programs continue to pay enormous dividends, allowing thousands more Missourians to attend college and step into rewarding careers like nursing, dentistry, pharmacy and advanced manufacturing.

Governor Nixon's higher education budgets included additional funding to provide incentive grants to Access Missouri and A+ Scholarship recipients who earn passing scores on at least two Advanced Placement exams in science or math while attending a Missouri public high school. This new initiative encouraged students, many of whom are from underrepresented or disadvantaged populations, to study and succeed in science and math fields.



Healthy Families

Healthy communities are critical to ensuring Missouri's excellent quality of life. Governor Nixon worked to help low-income seniors and Missourians with disabilities afford prescription medications through the Missouri Rx program, expanded access to in-home developmental disability services for thousands of Missourians through the Partnership for Hope, and brought legislators together to pass landmark legislation that requires insurance companies to cover the diagnosis and treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorders.

By the end of his second term, 140,000 more children had access to health care than the day the Governor took office. The Governor's budgets also made historic investments to help Missourians with developmental disabilities and mental illness live with dignity and hope.

Because a healthy, productive workforce is also critical to growing the economy, the Governor put forth a proposal to help working families gain access to affordable health care by reforming and strengthening Missouri's Medicaid system. Governor Nixon advocated for bringing Missourians' federal tax dollars home from Washington to implement state-based reforms to promote personal responsibility, protect taxpayers and expand access to care for working Missourians.

During his tenure, the Governor also put new quality standards in place for child care providers and expanded protections for victims of child abuse and neglect. He protected health care services for blind Missourians and increased the availability of chronic disease screenings for newborns.

In 2013, the Governor and First Lady launched the Governor's 100 Missouri Miles Challenge to encourage more Missourians to improve their health and well-being by hiking, biking, walking and running on Missouri's award-winning trails. From cities and suburbs to small towns and rural areas, Missourians participated in this opportunity to get active and healthy, while enjoying Missouri's scenic beauty.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

enrolled
140,000 additional children
for health benefits
through MO HealthNet 

Expanding Access to Health Care for Missouri Families

Governor Nixon was a tireless advocate for drawing down the federal dollars available to expand health coverage to close to 300,000 Missourians. While the legislature declined to expand Medicaid eligibility to working Missourians earning up to 138 percent of the federal poverty level, Governor Nixon was able to sign bipartisan legislation in 2016 to make it easier for Missourians who are elderly, blind or disabled to qualify.


In addition, by working diligently to make sure that children who were eligible for health care became enrolled, Governor Nixon helped more than 140,000 needy children gain access to comprehensive health care during his administration. Governor Nixon also expanded access to quality prenatal care services to approximately 1,800 low-income women each year through the Show-Me Healthy Babies Program, which provides pregnancy-related services that promote healthy labor, delivery, and birth.

Under Governor Nixon's leadership, in 2011 Missouri became the first state in the nation approved by the Centers of Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) to establish Medicaid reimbursement for a Health Homes program. This groundbreaking initiative connects eligible Missourians with comprehensive services to improve their physical and behavioral health and help maintain healthy lifestyles. The Health Home program, which received the Gold Award from the American Psychiatric Association, realized a \$36 million Medicaid savings and significantly improved clinical health outcomes for its beneficiaries.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

led the effort to replace
**Fulton State
Hospital**
 with a new,
modern facility

expanded access to
**mental health
care services**
including the placement of
31 
**mental health liaisons
statewide**

established the Missouri Health Connection
a health information super highway that gives health care
providers the opportunity to securely and efficiently share
electronic health records 

Strengthening Mental Health

Working in a bipartisan way, Governor Nixon made transformative investments in caring for Missourians with mental health challenges. In 2013, Governor Nixon proposed a series of fiscally responsible measures to improve the way Missouri cares for individuals whose severe behavioral health conditions have gone untreated. Working with members of the General Assembly, the Governor secured \$10 million annually for the Strengthening Mental Health Initiative.

“In work and deed, Nixon has championed community-based services for residents with mental health issues and with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Our state is a better place as a result of those efforts.”

Jefferson City News Tribune, July 29, 2015

A cornerstone of this initiative was the placement of 31 community mental health liaisons statewide to work with law enforcement and court personnel to connect people in behavioral health crises to treatment. By the end of his administration, there had been more than 35,000 contacts between Community Mental Health Liaisons, law enforcement and the courts, with more than 15,000 referrals to mental health services.

The Strengthening Mental Health Initiative also included the placement of emergency room intervention teams in seven regions of the state, coordinating with 65 hospitals and health centers. Outcomes for individuals who received services through these teams included a 67 percent decrease in ER visits and a 69 percent decrease in hospitalizations; a 75 percent decrease in homelessness; a 52 percent decrease in arrests; a 26 percent decrease in unemployment; and a 70 percent increase in treatment program enrollment. The Governor's budget for Fiscal Year 2017 included \$1.6 million to expand the placement of these emergency room intervention teams to an additional two regions.

In 2016, Governor Nixon was recognized with Mental Health America's B4Stage4 Leadership Award for his efforts to expand access to mental health services and help Missourians with mental illness get the care they need.



Gov. Nixon breaks ground at the new Fulton State Psychiatric Hospital campus on May 27, 2015

New Fulton State Hospital

Governor Nixon led the successful effort to replace the state's outdated and deteriorating maximum-security psychiatric facility at Fulton with a new state-of-the-art mental hospital that will be safer and more conducive to modern treatment.

Opened in 1851, Fulton State Hospital is the oldest state psychiatric facility west of the Mississippi River. Over many decades, the outdated buildings had become a safety risk for staff and detrimental to patients' care.

Governor Nixon called for a new Fulton State Hospital in his 2013 State of the State address and worked closely with legislative leaders and local officials to garner support for his proposal. In 2014, leaders in the House and Senate backed the Governor's plan to move forward with a strategic bond issuance to fund the \$200 million construction project.

The new Fulton State Hospital, scheduled to open in 2018, will stand as an enduring testament to the Governor's ability to work across the aisle to tackle even the most vexing challenges and make a positive difference for the people he served. The new hospital will be named in his honor.

Developmental Disability Services

Governor Nixon believes all Missourians, including those with developmental disabilities, deserve the opportunity to live up to their God-given potential. But when he first took office, Missourians with developmental disabilities often had to wait years for the services they needed to live fuller, more independent lives. Under Governor Nixon's leadership, that changed.

In 2010, Governor Nixon launched the Partnership for Hope, which provides earlier access to in-home and community-based services for Missourians with developmental disabilities and their families. This unique and innovative partnership - the first of its kind in the nation - moved the state system of supports and services away from a crisis-driven response to a preventive and enabling system of care. The Partnership for Hope also paved the way to eliminate the waiting list for in-home services and provides the opportunities for low-income Missourians with developmental disabilities to become full participants in their communities. This program made profound impact on thousands of individuals and families in the state.

Governor Nixon also supported the developmental disability community by providing historic increases in funding to ensure that all providers of developmental disability services are paid fairly; to assist individuals who are in a crisis situation while transitioning between family, group-home and community care settings; to increase rates for community providers; to ensure there is no waiting list for low-income individuals needing in-home services; to cover individuals with disabilities who qualify for Medicaid services as a result of the Missouri Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) program; and to transition youth aging out of the state's custody into appropriate adult settings.



Gov. Nixon and Special Olympians on May 30, 2014

Autism Treatment

It is estimated that almost two percent of children in Missouri are living with autism, and early access to services and treatment can greatly improve a child's development.

Beginning in 2009, Governor Nixon called on the Missouri General Assembly to pass legislation that would prevent insurance companies from denying children with autism the care they need and deserve by requiring insurance companies to include autism treatment in their coverage. In 2010, the Missouri General Assembly passed, and the Governor signed, bipartisan legislation meeting this important need.

As a result of this landmark law, for the first time, insurance companies were required to cover one of the most highly-effective types of therapy, Applied Behavioral Analysis, or ABA. While effective, the cost of ABA can exceed tens of thousands of dollars a year, making insurance coverage necessary for most families.

The 2015 annual autism report found that more Missouri children are benefiting from Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) than ever before, with thousands of children with autism receiving treatment – covered by their insurance companies – for autism-related conditions.

Governor Nixon continued this momentum with targeted investments to increase and expand access to autism treatments, and to train more Missourians in these types of therapies.

The Fiscal Year 2017 budget followed the Governor's recommendation for historic investments in services for Missourians with developmental disabilities, including \$5 million to expand the Thompson Center for Autism in Columbia and \$500,000 to expand services at the Mercy Kids Autism Center in St. Louis and St. Charles counties.

In the summer of 2016, the Governor joined the leadership of Truman State University, as well as educators, advocates, treatment providers and families, to announce \$5.5 million in state funding for a new Inter-Professional Autism Clinic at the former Greenwood Elementary School in Kirksville. The clinic will provide comprehensive autism services currently lacking in Kirksville and the surrounding area of northeast Missouri.



Gov. Nixon cuts the ribbon for the MU Thompson Center for Autism in Columbia on December 3, 2010

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS



**Created the
Partnership for Hope to
help thousands**

of Missourians with
developmental disabilities
get the timely support and
services they need



**eliminated the
waiting list**
for in-home services
for low-income Missourians
**with developmental
disabilities**

signed legislation requiring insurance companies to
cover the diagnosis & most effective therapies for the
treatment of autism

Protecting Missouri's Children

Governor Nixon's administration made significant investments in new programs and higher standards to protect children placed in state custody by the courts. In 2014, the Governor proposed, and the General Assembly approved, \$5.1 million in funding for additional technology and career-support for staff at the Children's Division to improve services and strengthen staff retention efforts.

The Missouri Children's Division was first accredited in 2010 by the Council on Accreditation (COA) during Governor's Nixon's administration and reaccredited in 2015. Accreditation demonstrates Missouri's commitment to excellence in child welfare practices. Missouri is one of only four states in the nation to meet these high performance standards.

The Governor also supported funding for rate increases for providers caring for abused and neglected children; services for victims of child abuse and neglect; and funds to put higher education opportunities within reach of youth in foster care.

Increased Access to Health Careers

In addition to expanding access to quality health care, Governor Nixon also worked to increase the number of skilled health professionals able to provide these services.

In 2009, the Governor launched Caring for Missourians to train hundreds of students for high-demand, critical need health care fields including medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, nursing, and mental health. With a targeted investment, Missouri's two- and four-year institutions committed to training 900 students for fast-growing health care fields, and they significantly over-performed – producing a total of 1,500 graduates in these fields.

Increasing job training is a top priority for Governor Nixon and he supported the Department of Social Services' effort to secure a \$15 million, five-year federal grant to provide job training in health-related fields to low-income Missourians. The initiative will serve approximately 1,800 Missourians in St. Louis, Kansas City, and central Missouri who want to pursue careers in health care.

Public Health

In 2012, Missouri supported the establishment of regional health care coalitions representing hospitals, Federally Qualified Health Centers, local public health agencies, emergency medical services, law enforcement and emergency managers to prepare for health emergencies within their regions and statewide.

A Rapid Response Team was established in 2012 to implement an incident command team for interstate outbreaks of food-borne illness, allowing information to be shared in a timely and efficient manner across agencies.

In 2016, the Missouri Public Health Laboratory in Jefferson City became one of only a few labs designated as both a Zika and Ebola testing laboratory by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The CDC designation means the Missouri lab can provide testing of Zika and Ebola samples, ensuring Missourians received timely and accurate results.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS



led the state's response to
public health threats including
H1N1 influenza, Ebola & Zika viruses



Gov. Nixon joined officials of A.T. Still University of Health Sciences (ATSU) in Kirksville to break ground on the university's new Missouri School of Dentistry and Oral Health on March 15, 2012

Disaster Response

During Governor Nixon’s tenure, Missourians endured severe weather emergencies: ice storms and blizzards, unprecedented drought and flooding, and the worst tornado in state history – the EF-5 twister that devastated Joplin and surrounding communities in 2011.



Throughout it all, Governor Nixon was there: deploying resources to help those in need; visiting affected communities to oversee the state’s emergency response; and ensuring that ongoing support was available to help families and communities recover and rebuild.



Gov. Nixon arrives in St. Louis County to survey severe weather damage on April 11, 2013

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Declared **23**
states of emergency and
secured more than
\$500 million
in disaster payments

Led response to
unprecedented  **flooding and**
drought events 

Faith-Based and Community Service Partnership for Disaster Recovery

Working hand-in-hand with faith-based and volunteer partner organizations statewide, Governor Nixon built a response and recovery system that is a national model. The State Emergency Management Agency coordinates regional and local disaster training at churches and other houses of worship, dramatically expanding the capacity of Missouri communities to meet local needs for food, clothing, shelter and medical care during emergencies. More than 2,500 Missourians have received disaster training since 2009. Missouri's disaster sheltering capacity has increased from less than 10,000 in 2009 to more than 51,000.

Missouri state and local agencies now routinely coordinate with faith-based and volunteer organizations to establish "one-stop" shops for where those affected by disasters can get services to help them recover. In 2009, Administrator Craig Fugate of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) traveled to Missouri for a briefing with Governor Nixon and members of the state's faith-based and volunteer response and recovery partnership. The partnership served as a model for FEMA as it worked to advance federal partnerships with private sector, non-profit and faith-based organizations across the nation.

In 2013 Governor Nixon issued an Executive Order streamlining government operations for disaster preparedness, planning and response. The Department of Public Safety seamlessly coordinates all federal, state, local, private sector and citizen emergency response and preparedness activities related to terrorism, natural disasters and pandemics.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Coordinated state response to the **Joplin tornado**



Created the **Faith-Based and Community Service Partnership for Disaster Recovery**



Gov. Jay Nixon and Ft. Leonard Wood Commanding Gen. Les Smith



Gov. and First Lady Nixon inspect the floodwall protecting Clarksville, Mo



Gov. Nixon surveys flooding in the West Alton area of St. Charles County, Mo. on June 7



Gov. Nixon talks with local officials in Pacific about the state's response to historic flooding in the St. Louis region on December 30, 2015

Missouri Statewide Interoperability Network (MOSWIN)

In 2009, at Governor Nixon's direction, Missouri committed \$87 million to construct a statewide interoperable public safety radio system. Completed in 2013, MOSWIN links law enforcement, fire, EMS, emergency management, public health, hospitals, transportation, utilities and other public safety agencies for whom the ability to communicate and coordinate is critical. The network is designed to provide a primary radio communications network for day-to-day intra-agency mobile communications among state agencies such as the Missouri State Highway Patrol, State Parks, and the Department of Corrections. More than 1,100 state and local agencies currently have interoperable communications through the network. More than 100 agencies use MOSWIN to meet their full-time communications needs, with a total of 35,270 radios on MOSWIN.



Gov. Nixon with first responders after an EF-5 tornado struck Joplin in May 2011

Joplin Tornado

On May 22, 2011, an EF-5 tornado devastated neighborhoods, businesses, schools and hospitals in Joplin and Duquesne. The losses were staggering: thousands of people homeless and thousands more unemployed; 7,500 homes and more than 550 businesses damaged or destroyed; more than a thousand injured; and 161 lives lost.

Governor Nixon took immediate action to mobilize the resources needed to help those affected by the tornado.

Missouri's Disaster Medical Assistance Team arrived in Joplin within hours of the tornado's touchdown, establishing a temporary emergency room, treating 157 patients, and setting up a 60-bed mobile hospital in the parking lot of the destroyed St. John's Hospital. Missouri public health professionals also provided 13,000 tetanus shots to residents at risk.

Governor Nixon's comprehensive response was based on the following key components:

- Immediately responding to meet people's needs, including bringing vital state services directly to the people of Joplin: replacing vital records such as birth certificates and driver's licenses; and providing assistance with temporary housing, insurance claims and other essential services.
- An expedited debris removal program, jointly funded by the state and federal government, designed to rapidly clear more than 1.2 million cubic yards of debris from the worst-hit destruction zone, so rebuilding could begin quickly – and provide the housing Joplin would need to prevent the city's contraction.
- Helping Joplin Public Schools rapidly convert vacant buildings into schools for 4,200 students at eight schools damaged or destroyed by the tornado. All the temporary schools were ready in time for the first day of classes on Aug. 17, including a facility for 11th and 12th graders, built in a vacant department store at a local mall in just 55 days.
- Harnessing the work ethic, faith and goodwill of the citizens of Joplin through initiatives like the Disaster Recovery Jobs Program and the Governor's Faith-Based and Community Service Partnership for Disaster Recovery; and
- Sustaining a long-term commitment and being there every step of the way as Joplin rebuilt and recovered. From helping bring new jobs to the region to expanding access to early childhood education and mental health services, Governor Nixon has worked hand-in-hand with the people of Joplin to build a brighter future for all its citizens.



Gov. Nixon welcomes President Barack Obama to speak at a memorial service remembering tornado victims in Joplin

Governor Nixon established Jumpstart Joplin to support the construction and rehabilitation of homes for working families and provided new business recovery resources for Joplin employers. Governor Nixon also launched the Joplin Habitat Challenge, partnering with the Joplin Area Habitat for Humanity and Missouri's sports teams and organizations to build new homes in Joplin. Armed with hammers, paintbrushes and shovels, more than 2,180 volunteers helped construct and finish 35 new homes.

Today, Joplin's population is higher than it was before the tornado, and the region's economy has strengthened significantly.

The Governor also worked to increase the number of community safe rooms throughout the state. Built to withstand 250-mile-per-hour winds, such safe rooms are built with 14-inch precast concrete and steel-reinforced doors, as well as walls and roof sections capable of withstanding the impact of windborne debris. Governor Nixon has approved 15 additional community safe rooms during his tenure. Upon their completion, the state will be able to shelter more than 215,000 Missourians.



Gov. Nixon and First Lady Georganne Nixon help to build a home with Habitat for Humanity in Joplin on May 22, 2012



Gov. Nixon visits a family farm in Greene County on Aug. 21, 2012 to survey a new well that was installed as a result of the Governor's emergency drought relief program

Historic Drought

In 2012, extreme drought put many Missouri farms at risk of losing valuable crops and livestock. At the request of Governor Nixon, all 114 Missouri counties received national disaster declarations from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to help secure low-interest loans and other federal assistance. The Governor led the state's response, taking action to develop an emergency program providing urgent relief to farmers facing critical water shortages. The emergency cost-share program funded more than 5,300 projects; provided more than \$21 million to drill new wells, deepen existing wells or undertake new projects to get water to livestock and crops; and partnered with rural electric cooperatives to expedite electrical connections to service water projects.

Historic Flooding

In 2011, Missouri communities experienced record flooding across the state due to water releases from upper-Missouri River reservoirs and a breach of the Birds Point levee in southeast Missouri. Immediate actions were taken to assist these communities. Over \$6 million was provided for community development block grants to assist several Missouri towns and counties repair or replace roads, bridges, levees and other public infrastructure damaged or destroyed by the damaging flood waters.

When severe storms struck Missouri again in late 2015 and early 2016, with water levels higher than the Great Flood of 1993, Governor Nixon declared a state of emergency. Record rainfall forced the closure of hundreds of roads across the state. The fast-rising floodwaters inundated several thousand homes and businesses, leaving behind a trail of destruction, including the loss of 15 lives. The Governor and his emergency response team visited affected communities to meet with local officials and ensure they had the support they needed.

Governor Nixon activated the State Emergency Operations Center to monitor the storms and coordinate with local partners. The Missouri National Guard was activated to protect local communities and support emergency response personnel. In response to the Governor's request, President Obama declared a state of emergency, making federal resources available to individuals and communities affected by the disaster. Gov. Nixon secured approval for debris removal in the St. Louis region and announced \$1 million in federal emergency relief funds to repair flood-damaged roads and bridges.



Gov. Nixon surveys flood damage in Pacific on December 30, 2015

Public Health

Missouri's capacity to respond to public health threats improved dramatically under Governor Nixon's leadership. The public health emergency response planning and exercise unit was consolidated into the State Emergency Management Agency to allow for better coordination and emergency preparedness. The Missouri Public Health Laboratory is now one of a few labs in the country designated as both a Zika and Ebola testing laboratory by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, ensuring that Missourians get timely and accurate results.

Other public health achievements during the Nixon administration include: statewide coordination of 1.6 million doses of H1N1 influenza vaccines during the 2009 pandemic; the establishment of seven regional health care coalitions to prepare, train and exercise community partners for health emergencies locally and statewide; the integration of public health agencies with law enforcement to ensure the preparedness, quick response, and delivery of vaccine supplies and resources in an emergency; and the establishment of a Rapid Response Team in 2012 for dealing with interstate outbreaks of food-borne illness.



Outdoors and Tourism

A lifelong outdoorsman, Governor Nixon grew up hunting and fly-fishing with his dad in the Missouri Ozarks. Throughout his 30-year career in public service, the Governor worked tirelessly to strengthen the outdoor economy and give Missouri families and visitors more ways to enjoy the natural beauty of the Show-Me State.

Making it a goal to reverse a 10-year decline in parks attendance, Governor Nixon expanded and improved Missouri’s nationally recognized state park system, upgrading existing parks and opening new state parks in central and southern Missouri.

During Governor Nixon’s administration, Missouri was named both the best camping state and the best trails state, and its state parks were consistently ranked among the best in the nation. By the end of Governor Nixon’s tenure, Missouri’s expanded state park system had officially surpassed his goal of welcoming 20 million visitors annually.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Expanded the
Missouri State Parks
system by more than
16,000
acres



Increased
state park
attendance
to record levels



Created the
100 Missouri Miles
challenge

Established the
nationally-recognized
State Parks
Youth Corps

Governor's 100 Missouri Miles Challenge

In 2013, Missouri was named the “Best Trails State” by American Trails, a national, non-profit organization working on behalf of the nation’s hiking, biking and riding trails. In celebration of the national award, Governor Nixon and First Lady Georganne Nixon established the Governor’s 100 Missouri Miles Challenge. The program encouraged all Missouri families to get outside and take advantage of the incredible resources found in the Show-Me State. Participants were challenged to run, walk, bike, ride, swim, hike, paddle, or roll their way to 100 miles of physical outdoor activity by the end of each calendar year. By the end of 2016, more than 27,000 Missourians had logged more than 5.6 million miles.



Governor and First Lady canoe on the Current River with their late dog Daniel Boone in 2010

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Expanded the
Katy Trail
across the state

Worked with the
PGA Champions Tour
and **Bass Pro Shops**
to bring Legends
of Golf tournament
to Missouri

Missouri State Parks

Missouri State Parks is one of the top parks systems in the nation. During the recession, when budget cuts forced other states to close their parks or charge admission, Missouri’s remained open and free to all. As a result, Governor Nixon’s administration reversed a 10-year decline in state park attendance and strengthened Missouri’s position as a premier outdoor destination.

Under Governor Nixon’s leadership, Missouri invested more than \$100 million in upgrades and expansion throughout its state parks system. Key projects included rebuilding the historic Pin Oak Dining Lodge at Lake of the Ozarks State Park after it was destroyed in a fire and remodeling the CCC Lodge at Roaring River State Park to once again serve as lodging for guests. An additional \$10 million in improvements to Missouri’s state parks and historic sites was made possible through a strategic bond issuance.

In addition to improving existing parks, Governor Nixon also expanded Missouri’s state park system – adding thousands of acres that will be protected in perpetuity for all Missourians to enjoy. In 2016, Governor Nixon opened Echo Bluff State Park. The 476-acre park is a new jewel of Missouri’s acclaimed park system and offers everyone - from experienced outdoorsmen to families who appreciate modern amenities - a beautiful base from which to explore the eastern Ozarks. Located along the Current River’s second largest tributary, Sinking Creek, Echo Bluff provides year-round opportunities for Missourians to experience all that the Ozarks have to offer. The park has also been an economic development tool, creating hundreds of construction jobs and providing area residents with new employment opportunities in their community.



Gov. Nixon fly fishing in 2010

Throughout his three decades of public service, Governor Nixon has been a steadfast advocate for Katy Trail State Park, the longest developed rail-to-trail in the nation. In December 2016, the Katy Trail gained an additional 47.5 miles into the Kansas City area with an extension along Rock Island Trail State Park from Windsor to Pleasant Hill. Completion of this trail extension will enable hikers and bicyclists to travel across Missouri from the St. Louis area to the Kansas City area.

In January 2017, Governor Nixon officially opened a new day-use park in Jefferson County: Don Robinson State Park, named for the St. Louis businessman who created a personal sanctuary in the upper watershed of the LaBarque Creek. Four more state parks in Oregon, Douglas, Reynolds and Taney counties brought the total number of state parks in Missouri to 92.

These investments in Missouri's state parks and historic sites contributed to a healthy state economy. Results of an economic impact study released in 2012 estimated that annual expenditures of state park visitors total approximately \$778 million. The overall economic impact of those expenditures is estimated at \$1.02 billion in sales, supporting more than 14,000 jobs. For every dollar spent to operate the park system, Missouri's economy saw a \$26 return on investment.

Strengthening Missouri's Outdoor Heritage

Governor Nixon led the creation of the Missouri State Parks Youth Corps to help young Missourians make a difference by preserving and enhancing the state's resources while learning the value of personal responsibility, hard work and conservation. The program provides summer employment, job skills and an opportunity to perform public service. Funded and managed through a partnership between local Workforce Development Boards and the Missouri Department of Economic Development and Missouri State Parks, the State Parks Youth Corps allows youth to be involved in a variety of work activities at state parks including improving camp sites, maintaining trails and restoring habitat.

In 2014, State Parks Youth Corps grew by offering positions to youth in St. Louis and Kansas City municipal parks, as well as within state parks and historic sites. This expansion offered more opportunities in urban areas of the state through a partnership with city governments.

By the end of 2016, 4,000 workers had spent more than 800,000 hours working in parks and historic sites throughout the state.

Through initiatives like the Governor's Youth Turkey Hunt and the Governor's Youth Deer Hunt, Governor Nixon has also worked to encourage more young people to take part in outdoor traditions like hunting and fishing. On his watch, the number of youth hunters in Missouri has increased by more than 35 percent.



Gov. Nixon announces the extension of the Katy Trail from Windsor to Pleasant Hill along the Rock Island Trail State Park



Gov. Nixon and First Lady unload venison donated to needy families by Missouri hunters through the Share the Harvest program on December 21, 2012

Increased Tourism

The Governor's efforts to promote the outdoor economy resulted in a significant increase in tourism. The economic impact of tourism increased by 34 percent during Governor Nixon's administration. In fiscal year 2016, Missouri welcomed a record 41.7 million visitors who spent more than \$13.1 billion and supported more than 307,000 jobs. That number included hundreds of thousands of visitors from other countries.

To build on this momentum, Governor Nixon partnered with the PGA Champions Tour and Bass Pro Shops to bring the Bass Pro Shops Legends of Golf tournament to Branson in 2014. Now entering its fourth year, The Legends of Golf tournament hosts some of the biggest names in the history of golf, further establishing Missouri as a premier outdoor destination. More than 44,000 fans attended the first three years of the event, which was broadcast worldwide to over 300 million households in the United States and more than 212 countries. The one-of-a-kind event further established Missouri as a premier outdoor destination – drawing more tourism and jobs to the state.



Safer, Stronger, More Equitable Communities

Missouri is a stronger state because of its diverse communities. Governor Nixon worked with countless individuals, organizations and communities to overcome social, economic and educational challenges and create greater equity and opportunity for all. During his two-terms in office, Governor Nixon took specific actions to support and promote the equal treatment of all Missouri citizens through executive orders, legislative and policy changes.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

 **Banned discrimination**
based on gender, sexual preference in state government

Led passage of historic **municipal court and law enforcement** reform legislation

Promoted **inclusivity and diversity** in state contracts

Vetoed legislation that would have rolled back **40 years of progress** in civil rights

 Launched **No Kid Hungry Missouri**

Ferguson Commission

In November 2014, following the events precipitated by the fatal shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Governor Nixon issued Executive Order 14-15, establishing the Ferguson Commission. The Governor charged commission members with studying the underlying issues and developing specific policy recommendations to make the St. Louis region a stronger, fairer place for everyone to live.

The Governor chose 16 members for the commission from more than 300 applications and nominations received. The men and women chosen represented a broad diversity of life experiences and points of view. They included business owners and not-for-profit leaders, pastors and public servants, all united by a shared passion to promote understanding, hasten healing, ensure equal opportunities in education and employment and safeguard the civil rights of all Missouri citizens.

In September 2015, the Ferguson Commission released its final report, with four key areas emerging from countless hours of discussion, public input and deliberation: justice for all; youth development; opportunity to thrive; and racial equity.

The work of the Ferguson Commission helped chart a new path forward, as Missouri and the St. Louis region took significant steps toward healing and positive change.



Ferguson Commission Co-Chairmen Starsky Wilson and Rich McClure present Gov. Nixon with the Commission's report on September 14, 2015



Gov. Nixon in Kansas City on August 6, 2015 to announce effort to enhance law enforcement training standards in Missouri

Updated Law Enforcement Training Standards

In keeping with the recommendations of the Ferguson Commission, Governor Nixon directed the Missouri Department of Public Safety and the Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Commission to work with law enforcement officers to identify best practices and implement enhanced training standards in the key areas of fair and impartial policing; tactical and de-escalation techniques; mental health crisis response; and officer wellbeing.

Following public hearings around the state to gather input from Missourians, including law enforcement agencies, advocacy groups and citizens, the POST Commission recommended new standards to require annual training each year in key areas, and mandated a 50 percent increase in the number of continuing education training hours required to maintain a law enforcement license.



Gov. Nixon signs sweeping municipal court reforms into law Missouri Court of Appeals for the Eastern District on July 9, 2015

Justice for All

Throughout his career in public service, Governor Nixon fought tirelessly to protect the constitutional rights of all Missourians by upholding the integrity of Missouri's judicial system, protecting access to the courts and defending the Missouri Non-Partisan Court Plan.

As called for in his 2015 State of the State Address, the General Assembly passed, and the Governor signed, sweeping municipal court reforms – historic legislation that helped to ensure that municipal courts fulfill their original and intended purpose: protecting and serving the public. Governor Nixon believed that the system needed to be reined in for too often profiting from its most vulnerable citizens. He proposed a comprehensive approach not only to set reasonable limits on the fines and fees municipal courts could collect from their citizens, but also to improve how courts were operating by establishing new standards for accountability, transparency and fairness.

For six months Governor Nixon and his staff worked closely with members of the legislature to craft language to achieve those goals. The result was a substantive, far-reaching bipartisan package that eliminated the profit motive pursued by some municipalities through their courts. The legislation focused on reforming the municipal justice system to ensure that all citizens receive due process and equal protection under the law.

During his administration, Governor Nixon vetoed legislation that would have made it easier to discriminate against Missourians and undermined the Missouri Human Rights Act, and he twice vetoed legislation that would have disenfranchised thousands of eligible Missourians by making it more difficult to vote.

In 2012, Governor appointed Judge George Draper III to the Missouri Supreme Court, making him only the second African-American to serve on the state's highest court. During his tenure, Governor Nixon appointed a record number of women and minorities to serve on state circuit and appellate courts.

Community Engagement

Governor Nixon recognized that across Missouri, communities faced serious issues involving race, poverty, education, and economic opportunities. Through his administration, Governor Nixon remained committed to understanding issues confronting Missouri communities and to developing policies that would help all Missourians prosper and thrive.

In 2014, Governor Nixon created the Office of Community Engagement to facilitate communication with Missourians and inform policy solutions for the unique challenges facing low-income and minority communities. The office is responsible for engaging communities, public and private sector leaders, clergy and citizens across the state regarding critical issues.

The Office of Community Engagement worked with local job centers to launch the Summer Job League, a workforce development program for Missourians ages 16 to 24 living in the greater St. Louis and Kansas City areas. More than 780 employers were recruited in 2015 to offer summer jobs and internships to these young Missourians. In its inaugural year, more than 3,100 low-income youth were enrolled in accelerated work-readiness training at area career centers, where they learned soft skills and were matched with a business operating in a field of their interest.

In 2016, Governor Nixon announced a partnership with the national anti-hunger organization, Share our Strength, and a coalition of state agencies and community-based organizations. No Kid Hungry Missouri is working with school districts and other stakeholders to implement proven strategies to increase access to school breakfast, after-school snacks and summer meals. No Kid Hungry Missouri is also working to provide free meals for children during the summer months, by raising awareness of the program among low-income families and increasing the number of sites and sponsors across the state.

Ensuring a Diverse, Inclusive and Competitive Workforce

Governor Nixon has remained dedicated to promoting an equal opportunity workforce in Missouri. He signed Executive Order 10-24 to promote a more inclusive and diverse state workforce and to ensure that discrimination in employment practices, state services and facility operation would be identified and stopped. To carry out the Governor's order, the Office of Equal Opportunity worked to eliminate any discriminatory barriers to employment, while enhancing the state's efforts to provide equal opportunity and improve workforce diversity.

Governor Nixon worked successfully to obtain funding for a disparity study to determine whether the State of Missouri was fully utilizing minority and women-owned business enterprises (M/WBEs) in government contracts. In 2014, on the 50th anniversary of the signing of the historic Civil Rights Act of 1964, Governor Nixon established the Missouri Disparity Study Oversight Review Committee to review and analyze the 2014 State of Missouri Disparity Study and make recommendations.

In 2015, Governor Nixon signed Executive Order 15-06 which incorporated recommendations by the Disparity Study Oversight Review Committee and called for a series of steps to ensure that the state's contracting process promoted diversity and greater inclusion of M/WBEs. In November 2016, rules were implemented to increase efforts to promote diversity, provide greater opportunities for M/WBEs and encourage the creation of small businesses.

Executive Order 15-06 also implemented one of the key recommendations of the Ferguson Commission: a statewide program for M/WBEs with outcome measurements that incorporate capacity building, mentoring, and information about the state and local procurement system. A new online application system for M/WBEs was set up to cut red tape and save time in obtaining M/WBE certification.

In 2016 the Governor directed state agencies to dismantle barriers to employment for ex-offenders by removing questions relating to criminal history from initial employment applications. Executive Order 16-04 directed all departments, agencies and boards and commissions in the executive branch subject to the authority of the Governor to "ban the box" in state employment by placing questions relating to criminal history later in the hiring process in order to provide applicants a fair opportunity to compete for jobs.

To help ensure women receive equal pay for equal work, Governor Nixon signed Executive Order 15-09 to promote gender pay equity in the state workforce. The order directed state agencies to identify and address gender wage gaps, and to ensure that all Missourians receive equal pay for equal work. The Governor's executive order also strongly encouraged private sector organizations to do the same.

In 2016, Gov. Nixon proposed rule changes to expand the Federal Medical Leave Act (FMLA) for Missouri state employees to allow more flexibility for workers to care for their loved ones.

Protecting the Rights of LGBT Missourians

Governor Nixon believes that all Missourians deserve equal treatment under the law and an opportunity to achieve their full potential.

In 2015, Governor Nixon signed Executive Order 15-04 directing state departments, agencies, boards and commissions in the executive branch to ensure compliance with the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in Obergefell v. Hodges, which established a Constitutional right to same-sex marriage. Governor Nixon repeatedly called for the Missouri General Assembly to pass the Missouri Nondiscrimination Act, which would prohibit discrimination against LGBT Missourians in employment, housing and public accommodations. Executive Order 10-24, signed in 2010, prohibited discrimination based on sexual orientation in state government.

Governor Nixon also rallied the business community to persuade the General Assembly to reject a measure that would have amended the Missouri Constitution to condone discrimination against LGBT Missourians.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Created the
**Ferguson
Commission**

Created the
**Office of
Community
Engagement**

Strengthened
law enforcement
training standards 

Established the
**Summer Job
League** 



Supporting Farm Families & Rural Communities

Agriculture is Missouri's number one industry, and its continued strength was a top priority for Governor Nixon and his administration. By combining old-fashioned hard work and common sense with next-generation innovation and technology, Missouri farm families and agribusinesses are strengthening rural communities while feeding, fueling and clothing the world. Governor Nixon's administration strived to advance economic development and opportunities in rural Missouri. The Governor supported Missouri farmers by promoting Missouri's agricultural products and securing trade agreements to increase exports to record levels around the globe.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Helped farm families
**respond and
recover**
from natural disasters



Signed legislation 
to strengthen
 **beef cattle
industry**

Improved attendance at
**Missouri
State
Fair**



Grew the
AGRIMISSOURI
marketing program

 **Increased export opportunities**
for Missouri farmers



Gov. Nixon visits Glenrove Farm near Rolla on October 26, 2012

AgriMissouri

Missouri ranks in the top 10 in the nation for the number of farmers markets, and participation in the state's AgriMissouri marketing program grew ten-fold during the Governor's tenure.

AgriMissouri grew during Governor Nixon's administration to promote Missouri-grown and Missouri-made items, representing food and non-food products, retailers, farmers' markets, agritourism and agricultural experience destinations. Under the Nixon administration, membership in AgriMissouri has increased from 225 to nearly 2,500, providing consumers greater access to farmers in their local area.

Beef Industry

Throughout his administration Governor Nixon brought attention to the importance of maximizing the potential of Missouri's beef industry. In 2015, Governor Nixon brought together hundreds of producers, scientists, packers, corn-growers, legislators and others from around the state to develop a plan to keep more of Missouri's cattle value in the state, where it can strengthen rural communities.

In 2016 Governor Nixon signed legislation to re-authorize and enhance the existing Qualified Beef Tax Credit until 2021 to increase participation. The legislation also created the Meat Processing Facility Investment Tax Credit for taxpayers who construct, modernize or expand their meat processing facilities.

Support for Farmers

A champion of fuels from the farm, Governor Nixon served as the 2016 chairman of the Governors' Biofuels Coalition, a multi-state bipartisan organization founded more than 25 years ago to increase the use of ethanol-based fuels, decrease the nation's dependence on imported energy resources, improve the environment and stimulate the national economy. Governor Nixon also strongly advocated for the enforcement of the federal Renewable Fuel Standard, and signed legislation to promote the installation of blended fuel pumps at more gas stations throughout the state.

Governor Nixon signed legislation to cut red tape for farmers by waiving the requirement that an authorized farm corporation or family farm corporation file annually with the Missouri Secretary of State when there has been no change to the corporation's reported information.

In 2015, when the USDA tried to enforce crop-reporting deadlines at a time when farmers were battling heavy rain and flooding, Governor Nixon sued the federal government to block the deadlines. Governor Nixon successfully spoke out against rules proposed by the U.S. Department of Labor in 2011 that would have prevented children from helping with chores on family farms.

Throughout his tenure, Governor Nixon worked tirelessly to support the next generation of Missouri agriculture leaders – signing legislation to ensure continued support for FFA and allowing FFA chapters to form in private schools at no public expense. In 2011, he signed legislation establishing the Missouri Farmland Trust Act to allow for the donation of farmland to assist beginning farmers.

To assist farmers with theft, Governor Nixon launched the Livestock and Farm Protection Task Force, a partnership between the Missouri Department of Agriculture, the Missouri State Highway Patrol's Rural Crimes Task Force and industry partners. In its first year, 2010, livestock and farm equipment worth more than \$2 million was recovered.

Disaster Recovery

From record drought to historic floods, Governor Nixon worked relentlessly to help farm families recover from natural disasters.

In 2011, the Missouri Agricultural Disaster Relief Program was launched to help Missouri farmers recover from losses due to weather conditions. From donations received, the Missouri Department of Agriculture provided \$200,000 to the state's farmers.

In 2012, extreme drought put many Missouri farms at risk of losing their crops and livestock. At the request of Governor Nixon, all 114 Missouri counties received

national disaster declarations from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to help them obtain low-interest loans and other federal assistance. The Governor led the state's response, taking immediate action to develop an emergency program providing urgent relief to farmers facing critical water shortages. The emergency cost-share program funded more than 5,300 projects where immediate relief was needed; provided more than \$21 million to drill new wells, deepen existing wells or undertake new projects to get water to livestock and crops; and partnered with rural electric cooperatives to expedite electrical connections to service water projects.

Governor Nixon's leadership also helped rural communities respond and recover from historic floods, rebuilding damaged levees across the state and urging the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to make flood control the highest priority in operating the Missouri River Reservoir System.



Gov. Jay Nixon visits family farms in Texas County (top) and Greene County (bottom) in Aug. 2012 to survey new wells that were installed as a result of the Governor's emergency drought relief program

Missouri Exports

To ensure there continues to be strong demand for Missouri agricultural products, Governor Nixon expanded markets for Missouri goods around the globe.

Leading successful trade missions to China, Brazil, Taiwan, the United Kingdom, France, the Republic of Korea, Canada, Cuba, Spain, Italy, Germany, Panama, Peru, Israel and the United Arab Emirates, Gov. Nixon signed agreements to sell billions of dollars in Missouri goods, including agricultural products.

In 2015, Missouri exported more than \$13.6 billion dollars in products around the globe, compared to just \$9.52 billion in 2009 – an increase of 43 percent. By late 2016, exports from Missouri were on pace to top the record of \$14.2 billion, set in 2014.

In 2015, a Missouri delegation led by First Lady Georganne Nixon traveled to Cuba on a historic trade mission. The Missouri team was the first U.S. state trade delegation to visit Cuba since the announcement by President Obama in 2014 that the U.S. was working to normalize diplomatic relations with Cuba. In 2016, Governor Nixon traveled to Havana, Cuba where the country formally accepted a 20-ton shipment of high-quality, long-grain rice grown and processed in southeast Missouri.

Missouri State Fair

For more than 100 years the Missouri State Fair has been the state's premier agricultural showcase, bringing hundreds of thousands of fairgoers to Sedalia to see the best Missouri farmers have to offer.

In 2015, Governor Nixon announced nearly \$5 million in upgrades to the State Fairgrounds property, made possible through the Build Missouri bonding initiative. These included improvements to the Missouri State Fair Woman's Building, the Missouri State Fair Coliseum, and the utilities system in the West Campgrounds.



Gov. Nixon and First Lady Georganne Nixon at the Governor's Ham Breakfast on August 20, 2015



Gov. Nixon at the Missouri State Fairgrounds to announce upgrades through the Build Missouri initiative on July 29, 2015

MoBroadbandNow

In 2009, Governor Nixon launched MoBroadbandNow, a public-private initiative to expand the reach of broadband throughout the state, and bring 21st century technology to schools, homes, businesses, health care facilities and public safety agencies. The goal was to ensure that 95 percent of Missourians would have access to broadband by 2014. The goal was achieved in the fall of 2012 – two years ahead of schedule. By the end of Governor Nixon’s term, 97 percent of all Missourians had access to broadband, including 90 percent of rural Missourians.

Governor’s Award for Agricultural Achievement

The Governor’s Award for Agricultural Achievement honors outstanding farmers, growers and processors for their work with agricultural commodities and their communities. Throughout Governor Nixon’s administration, 30 awards were presented to farm families across the state, representing all segments of Missouri agriculture.

2010

Cotton	Chris & Scott Matthews – Matthews Cotton Company	Matthews
Rice	Martin Rice Company	Bernie
Corn	Jerry Cox	Chaffee
Soybean	Kip Cullers	Stark City

2011

Corn	Billy Thiel – Thiel Farms	Marshall
Dairy	Randy Moony – M&M Dairy LLC	Rogersville
Forestry	Vern Spaunhorst – Heritage Valley Bed ‘n Breakfast	Washington
Beef	Leon & Helen Kreisler – Oak Knoll Ranch	Oak Knoll Ranch
Agritourism	Jay Fischer – Fischer Farms	Jefferson City

2012

Cotton	Charles Parker – Parker & Jones Farms	Senath
Dairy	Rich Scheer – Scheer Dairy Farms	New Haven
Soybean	W. Stemme Farms – Warren Stemme	St. Charles
Horticulture	Elmer Kidd – Stark Bro’s Nurseries & Orchards Co.	Louisiana
Winery	Charlie Schlottach – White Mule Winery	Owensville
Beef	Bob & Gretchen Thompson – Glengrove Farm	Rolla
Forestry	Otto & Wanda Williams – W.W. Cedar	Vienna
Horses	Terry & Myrna Geiler – Rolla Horse Auction	St. James

2014

Peaches	Bill and Denise Bader- Bader Peach Farms	Campbell
Beef	John Wood- US Wellness Meats	Monticello
Innovation	Elishia Carrillo- BioZyme	St. Joseph

2015

Row Crops	Andy Kapp	Clarksdale
Beef	Glen Cope	Aurora
Poultry	Jay & Carol Maddick, Campo Lindo Farms	Lathrop
Dairy	Paul Heins	Higginsville
Pork	Brent Sandidge, Ham Hill Farms	Marshall
Forest Products	Bucky Pescaglia, Missouri-Pacific Lumber Company	Fayette
Rice & Soybeans	Jason Bean	Peach Orchard
Cotton	Riley James	New Madrid
Row Crops	Todd Gibson	Norborne
Apples	Peters Orchard	Waverly



Gov. Nixon and the First Lady with 2011 Agricultural Achievement recipients M&M Dairy LLC



Veterans & Military Families

Throughout his career in public service, Governor Nixon fought for those who fought for us, both active-duty members of the military and veterans.



In 2010, Gov. Nixon presented the Legion of Honor, the highest award from the people of France, to WW II veteran and Silver Star recipient Perry Coy. The medal was awarded for his role in the liberation of France

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Formed
Missouri Military Partnership

Created
Show-Me Heroes
program

Funding for
veterans homes



Traveled overseas
to meet with **Missouri**
servicemen and women



Missouri is home to more than 490,000 veterans and nearly 15,000 active-duty military personnel. During his time in office, Governor Nixon visited troops overseas on four occasions and prioritized funding for veterans across the state.

Governor Nixon traveled to Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait and Germany to thank Missouri troops for their service and sacrifice.

In 2009, Governor Nixon signed legislation that has phased out the state tax on military pensions. For the tax returns that were filed for the 2016 tax year, military pension recipients were able to exclude 100 percent of their qualified military pensions from their Missouri taxable income. This legislation is estimated to have saved Missouri veterans a total of more than \$64.5 million.



At the Cameron Veterans Home, Gov. Nixon thanks veterans for their service after signing a bill to provide \$33 million in improvements to Missouri's seven veterans homes

In 2010, the Governor launched the Show-Me Heroes program to encourage Missouri employers to hire veterans returning from military service. At ShowMeHeroes.mo.gov, employers can take the pledge to hire Missouri veterans and veterans can post their resumes online. By the end of 2016, more than 5,000 Missouri businesses had taken the Show-Me Heroes pledge and more than 8,400 veterans had been hired.

In 2012, Governor Nixon worked across the aisle to provide a dedicated funding source for Missouri's seven veterans' homes, which house and care for more than 1,300 military veterans. In 2015, the Governor signed legislation providing \$33 million for improvement projects at the state's seven veterans homes, located in Cameron, Cape Girardeau, Mexico, Mount Vernon, St. James, St. Louis and

Warrensburg. Approximately \$700,000 also was made available for improvements to state cemeteries for veterans in Jacksonville, St. James and Springfield.

In 2016, Governor Nixon announced that the planning, design and site selection for a new state veterans' home will move forward, following the General Assembly's adoption of the Governor's budget recommendation to provide \$500,000 needed to get the project underway.

The budget for Fiscal Year 2017 also included the Governor's recommendation to provide \$6.3 million for the construction of Columbarium walls at the state veterans' cemeteries at Higginsville and Springfield.

In 2014, Governor Nixon announced a coordinated effort among the state and local communities and businesses to retain and enhance Missouri's military bases, force strength and federal defense spending. The Missouri Military Partnership was created to protect, retain and enhance Department of Defense activities in the state. Governor Nixon appointed Missouri State Treasurer Clint Zweifel to lead the partnership, which included gathering input from local communities.

Additionally, the Governor announced the results of an in-depth economic impact study of Missouri National Guard, Whiteman Air Force Base, Fort Leonard Wood and all U.S. Department of Defense spending in Missouri. The study found that the Department of Defense spends about \$15 billion annually in Missouri to operate all military installations, pay personnel, and purchase goods and services. That spending supports approximately 275,000 direct and indirect jobs and has a total direct and indirect economic impact of more than \$39 billion.

In 2016, the Governor signed Senate Bill 968, which establishes that any person currently serving in the Missouri National Guard or in the reserves of the Armed Forces of the United States shall be considered an in-state resident for the purpose of paying tuition at any four-year institution or an in-district resident for tuition at a public two-year institution.



A 2012 bill signed by Gov. Nixon provides a dedicated funding source for Missouri's veterans homes, such as the one in St. Louis



Gov. and Mrs. Nixon honor those who made the supreme sacrifice during a Memorial Day ceremony at the Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery in St. Louis

First Lady Georganne Nixon



Born in Jefferson City in 1954, First Lady Georganne Wheeler Nixon is a proud product of Missouri's public education system. Her father, Hubert Wheeler, was Missouri's first Commissioner of Education, and served from 1947-1971. With degrees in education and law from the University of Missouri-Columbia, Mrs. Nixon taught in the public school system and has practiced law. She has served as vice president at Central Trust and Investment Company in Jefferson City; Director of Contracts for William Morrow & Co., Inc., in New York; and Director of Services for the Missouri Bar Association.

As First Lady, Mrs. Nixon has taken a special interest in promoting causes and initiatives relating to the arts, literacy, nature and the outdoors.

She worked with horticulture experts at the Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis and Powell Gardens near Kansas City to plan and design a vegetable and herb garden on the grounds of the Governor's Mansion. The Governor and First Lady also planted several apple and cherry trees and blueberry bushes that came from the 200-year-old Stark Bros. nursery in Louisiana, Missouri, which was owned by Governor Stark, inventor of the Golden Delicious apple. In 2016, they dedicated this area as the Daniel Boone Garden, named in memory of the Welsh Springer Spaniel

who was a member of their family and greeted many guests to the Mansion during his time as First Dog. The Nixons donated a park bench in the garden overlooking the Missouri River, to be used by future First Families.

Mrs. Nixon's interest in gardening and horticulture also extended to her working with the Missouri Department of Agriculture to expand community gardens and farmers' markets throughout the state. Each year, she hosted the First Lady's Pie Contest at the Missouri State Fair.



First Lady Reading December 15, 2016

Mrs. Nixon, an avid reader, encouraged children to share her love of books. She served as a Reading Ambassador for the Scholastic Summer Reading Challenge. The First Lady hosted reading events for grade school children in the Mansion and also distributed thousands of new books to grade schools throughout the state.

Throughout the Nixon administration, the First Lady frequently visited public schools to recognize parents, teachers and staff for their commitment to academic excellence, including those schools named as Blue Ribbon Schools by the U.S. Department of Education. The Governor and Mrs. Nixon believe that every Missouri student deserves a quality education, and they are proud of public schools for rising to the challenge and delivering a world-class education that not only prepares students for good jobs, but also inspires them to be life-long learners.

In 2010, together with the Missouri Department of Conservation, she helped launch the Children in Nature Challenge. The initiative reached out to communities across the state to help more children learn about and explore the natural world while improving their health and fitness.

The First Lady was instrumental in launching and promoting the Governor's 100 Missouri Miles Challenge to encourage families to get out in nature and enjoy the outdoors. As part of that challenge, Mrs. Nixon, the Governor and First Dog Huckleberry Finn logged hundreds of miles on Missouri's trails and waterways.

Mrs. Nixon was part of numerous trade missions as First Lady to help create opportunities for Missouri businesses to sell their products around the globe and promote Missouri as an ideal location for foreign investment. In 2015, she led a trade mission to Cuba with members of the U.S. Agriculture Coalition for Cuba, including 95 current and former government officials, industry representatives, and agriculture leaders. It was the first official trade mission from the United States after changes in diplomatic relations with Cuba were announced in late 2014.



First Lady planting a tree for Earth Day on April 23, 2010

Governor Nixon Awards and Recognition

President's Award, 2016

Missouri Association of County Developmental Disability Services

Governor Nixon received the award for extraordinary courage, persistence, vision and wisdom in bettering the lives and futures for individuals with developmental disabilities.

State Leadership Award, 2016

Motor & Equipment Manufacturers Association

Governor Nixon received the award in recognition of his work for making the motor vehicle industry and job creation a priority.

B4Stage4 Leadership Award, 2016

Mental Health America

Governor Nixon was recognized for his efforts to expand access to mental health services and help Missourians with mental illness get the care they need. The Governor made mental health care a top priority of his administration, hiring 31 new community health liaisons to work with law enforcement around the state, beginning construction on a new state-of-the-art state mental hospital in Fulton, and training thousands of Missourians in Mental Health First Aid.

George W. Lehr Memorial Speakers Chair Award, 2016

Missouri Boys State

In June of 2016 Governor Nixon received the 28th Annual George W. Lehr Memorial Speaker's Chair Award, in recognition of his ongoing participation in and support of the yearly Boys State program for the development and education of future leaders.

Conservationist of the Year, 2015

Conservation Federation of Missouri

Governor Nixon and First Lady Georganne Nixon were named 2015 Conservationists of the Year for their leadership support of numerous conservation initiatives and legacy programs including: the Governor's 100 Missouri Miles Challenge; Share the Harvest; the Governor's Youth Turkey and Deer Hunts; the First Lady's Children in Nature Challenge; Cabins for Canines; protecting, preserving and expanding Missouri's outstanding State Parks system; Capitol Campout and Outdoor Days; and Our Missouri Waters.

Conservation Partners of the Year, 2015

Bass Pro Shops

Governor Nixon and First Lady Georganne Nixon were recognized for their commitment to conservation, promoting Missouri's outdoor heritage and strengthening the state's outdoor economy.

Sheldon Coleman Great Outdoors Award, 2015

American Recreation Coalition

In recognition for his lifelong commitment to conservation and for enhancing opportunities for outdoor recreation, Governor Nixon received the outdoor recreation community's most prestigious award.

Elected Official of the Year, 2013

Missouri Park and Recreation Association

Governor Nixon was recognized for his long-running commitment to preserving and promoting Missouri's parks and open spaces.

Public Servant Award, 2011

Missouri Corn Growers Association

Governor Nixon received this award for his ongoing support of Missouri farmers, ethanol production and promotion of agricultural exports around the globe

James P. Damos Award, 2010

Missouri Victim Assistance Network

The state's leading advocacy group for crime victims presented Governor Nixon with this award for his work on behalf of Missouri crime victims throughout his tenure as four-term attorney general and two-term governor.

